

January 25, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

It is astonishing that the citizens of Alexandria are now facing a Permit that has no limits on PM 2.5-small particle pollution that falls directly on our houses, but most importantly, into our lungs as we carry on in our day to day lives as tax paying citizens.

The City of Alexandria has shown through scientific data and analysis that stringent emission limits and pollution controls are required to minimize PM2.5 emissions to a level that is NAAQS protective. Yet, once again, the Virginia DEQ knowingly omits any limits on PM 2.5. This is a strict violation of Virginia regulations. Is it not the responsibility of the Virginia DEQ to enforce these regulations? How are they able to manipulate the law?

PM 2.5 modeling methodology exists and is being used by many other states including New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut to set NAAQS-compliant emission limits. Therefore, it can only confirm one major point! The Virginia DEQs blatant defiance is unconscionable but is superseded by some unknown political agenda. In this case, I think it is appropriate to say that just like old dirty fired coal plants, this boils down to old fashioned dirty politics!

As a voting citizen, I am demanding that we meet the National Air quality Standards for PM2.5 and set limits that are essential for our health. That Mirant is required at a minimum to invest in Baghouse technology that will also further control SO2 and mercury emissions and the Virginia DEQ will further set an opacity limit of 10% percent, as Maryland and Washington, D.C. have done to the 20% limit we have in Virginia.

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